

PART III - LAND DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Chapter 3-5 - PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE XVIII. - LANDSCAPING AND BUFFERS

DIVISION 1. – GENERALLY

Sec. 3-5-397. - Planting standards.

(a) All plants, except transplanted plants, shall meet the quality standards for Florida No. 1 or better, as provided by *Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants*, Parts I and II, latest edition, State of Florida, Department of Agriculture, Tallahassee.

(b) *Tree size*: Trees used for points must have a minimum diameter (as measured by caliper or forestry diameter tape) of two (2) inches measured at twelve (12) inches above the soil line, have a minimum height of eight (8) feet at installation, and be on the approved tree list (Exhibit 9).

(c) Palm trees used for points must have a minimum of six (6) feet of clear trunk and be on the approved tree list (Exhibit 9).

(d) Required trees not needed for tree points must:

(1) Have a minimum diameter, measured by caliper or forestry diameter tape, of one (1) inch measured twelve (12) inches above the soil line;

(2) Have a minimum height of six (6) feet at installation; and

(3) Be on the approved tree list (Exhibit 9), or be approved by the department.

(e) Tree species mix. When more than ten (10) trees are required, a mix of species shall be planted as provided in the table below. No individual species shall comprise more than sixty (60) percent of the tree species mix. This subsection does not apply to areas of vegetation which have been preserved in the natural state.

Required Number of Trees	Minimum Number of Species
11—20	2
21—30	3
31—40	4
41+	5

(f) Shrubs and hedges for decorative perimeter and interior landscaping must be a minimum twelve (12) inches in height upon planting, be spaced eighteen (18) to thirty-six (36) inches on center determined by the type of plant used, and be of the type that reach at least twenty-four (24) inches on maturity.

(g) Hedges for parking lot screening and buffers must be a minimum eighteen (18) inches in height

- 1 upon planting, be spaced and maintained in order to form a continuous, solid visual screen within one
2 (1) year from planting, and be of the type that reach at least forty-eight (48) inches on maturity.
- 3 (h) Hedges used to replace an existing buffer wall must be at least four (4) feet tall (ten-gallon plant)
4 at installation.
- 5 (i) Vines shall be a minimum of twenty-four (24) inches in height at time of planting.
- 6 (j) Ground cover.
- 7 (1) Ground cover shall be planted in such a manner as to present a finished appearance, provide
8 soil stabilization and shall be used with a mulch when the ground is not completely covered by
9 the ground cover at the time of planting. The height and size (gallon) of ground cover do not have
10 to be designated on the landscape plan.
- 11 (2) Ground cover not meeting the initial ground cover requirements may be approved by the
12 department if the applicant establishes that the ground cover has water conservation properties.
- 13 (k) Grass.
- 14 (1) Areas to be planted with grass may be sodded, plugged, sprigged or seeded using drought
15 resistant and low water using strains.
- 16 (2) Solid sod must be used in swales and other areas subject to erosion, including
17 retention/detention ponds. Retention/detention pond floors may be seeded.
- 18 (3) Seeded areas must be sufficiently seeded to produce a ground cover within thirty (30) days.
- 19 (4) No more than twenty-five (25) percent of required landscaping may be planted in turf grass.
- 20 (l) All ~~clearing, grading,~~ installation and site preparation shall be done in accordance with this Code.
- 21 (m) Existing vegetation used to meet the requirements of this article shall be protected by the
22 measures provided in chapter 3-2, article IX of this Code.
- 23 (n) Where overhead power lines exist or are planned, the required canopy trees shall be replaced
24 with trees approved for planting under power lines.
- 25 (o) Alterations to landscaping and buffers require the written permission of the department.
- 26 (p) Prohibited species. It is unlawful to plant any of the prohibited species identified in Exhibit 10. In
27 addition, the prohibited species Australian pine, Brazilian pepper, melaleuca and downy rose myrtle
28 must be removed during site preparation.